

Solutions not Therapy Sessions



By Diane Linthicum

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In 2021, Oregon's **Democrat majority** passed Senate Bill 762, with a handful of bipartisan supporters, as a comprehensive wildfire management bill, also known as the **Fire Maps bill**. This bill was introduced to forestall future outcry that might erupt as details about negligence swirled in the news following the devastating Paradise, CA wildfire.

In that tragedy a regional electric utility provider, Pacific Gas and Electric, had neglected maintenance and upgrades to their utility lines. This led to sparks in a heavily forested area and ignited fires during a high-wind event. More than 100 lives were tragically lost, and **PG&E was quickly bankrupted**.

But SB 762 was a sleight-of-hand ruse.



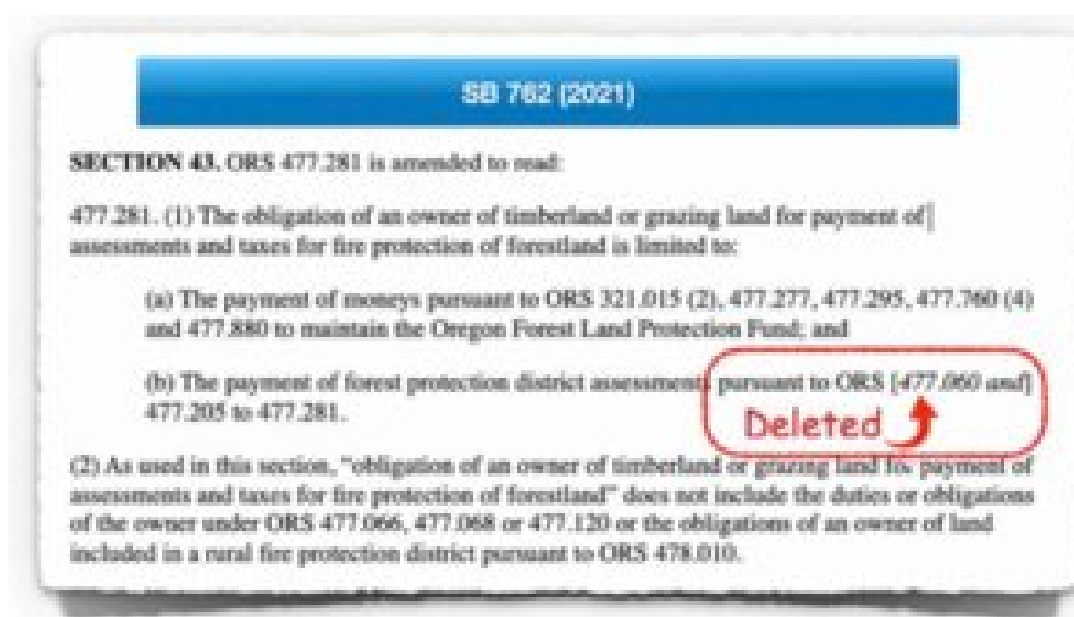
It was obviously designed to lead the public away from the troubles with Oregon's forest mismanagement and shift the problem onto the backs of the little guys – the private land owners.

Although the bill started with a nod to the PUC phantom, ELECTRIC SYSTEM PLANS, it demanded little from these public utilities. For grid providers, the legislature's demands consisted of **"periodic workshops"** and suggestions, "to develop and share information for the identification, adoption and carrying out of best practices regarding wildfires."

That's nice but it sounds like the result of a noon-time therapy session instead of a solution.

SB 762 spent only 2½ pages out of the bill's total 26 pages on these lackluster suggestions for workshops while the remaining 23+ pages are dedicated to saddling homeowners with **economic burdens, diminishing private property rights** and **burying bureaucratic solutions into Oregon's rules**, regulations and statutes.

The real solution is obvious – Manage the Forests, harvest timber and thin excessive growth and underbrush.



Additionally, Gov. Brown and Sen. Golden's Fire Maps Bill (SB 762) removed the **\$25.00 per**

parcel limit on forest protection district assessments (taxes)

as imposed by **ORS 477.060**.

This was an important protection for property owners because the measure authorizes the State Fire Marshal to administer and enforce the minimum defensible space requirements and apply a graduated fee structure for penalties on property owners for noncompliance.

The sky's the limit without this enforced tax limit.

This begs the question, was SB 762 a strategic move to **transfer the cost of our mismanaged forests onto private property owners**? Was this an intended or unintended consequence?

The Fire Maps Bill needs to be repealed in full!

The current repeal bill, SB 678, simply needs one small amendment to **reinstate the appropriate reference to ORS 477.060 which would reimpose the \$25.00 per parcel limit on forest protection district taxes.**

These limits must be put back in place!

SB 762 must be completely repealed!

[Support Diane's Conservative efforts](#)

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